



# Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

Secretariat provided by the United Nations Environment Programme



## 31<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee

Bonn, 28-29 September 2006

CMS/StC31/15

### RESULTS OF COP8 QUESTIONNAIRE

*Prepared by the CMS Secretariat*

1. During the final session of the Eighth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties held in Nairobi in November 2005, the Secretariat distributed a questionnaire in English, French and Spanish to record the impressions and suggestions of delegates and other participants. The results should serve as a basis for improvement of future CMS meetings and events. The questionnaires were completed and returned to the Secretariat by approximately 50 participants. The Secretariat considers this is a sufficient sample to reflect general impressions and assessment of the meeting's conduct and organisation.

#### **Registration and document distribution**

2. **Over 90% of the respondents to the survey appreciated both the service and assistance provided at registration as well as delegates' packs containing information on logistics and events.** Although the memory stick offered to participants containing main COP documents was also highly appreciated, delegates complained about the lack of proper internet connections and plugs for their laptops, which did not allow them to work on documents on site.

3. Overall, delegates considered document delivery was satisfactory. However it was noted that some documents were released late, instead of being available on the CMS website well in advance of the meeting sessions.

#### ***Follow-up for CMS Secretariat:***

- ***Establish a deadline for all COP documents in order for them to be available on website no later than 2 months prior to the session in English, and one month for translations.***
- ***Ensure availability of cybercafés and wireless connections.***

#### **In-session**

4. Respondents suggested that overall session organization was reasonably good with specific improvements to be made. Participants made several suggestions on improved coordination of sessions, including the management of the daily workload and agenda and the distribution of revised papers. Interpretation was considered excellent or good by over 90% of the respondents. The daily bulletin was considered most helpful in the organization of business.

#### ***Follow-up for CMS Secretariat:***

- ***Plan carefully the organization and distribution of in-session papers and organization of sessions,***
- ***Continue tradition of preparing daily bulletin.***

*For reasons of economy, this document is printed in a limited number, and will not be distributed at the meeting. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copy to the meeting and not to request additional copies.*

## Quality of documents

5. Overall quality of pre-session documents, as well as final recommendations and resolutions and their translations, was judged good. Again, the main problems seemed centered on the late availability of some documents. Early availability would allow better consideration of the content by Parties prior to the meeting. Better organization of the distribution of second drafts was suggested, to facilitate finalization of documents.

6. In general, according to the survey, problems with documents do not pertain to their content and quality, but with the organization of pre-session and in-session delivery.

## Special events

7. A number of events were organized prior to and during COP-8 sessions. They were generally considered excellent opportunities for networking and for reviewing technical information of good quality. Presentations and presenters were of high quality. A better time management was however suggested in order to avoid overlaps and, in the case of the Partnership Fair, an over-long opening session.

8. Some respondents suggested that some presentations at the Partnership Fair could have been scheduled at side events during the week, while others saw the schedule of side events as already too crowded.

### *Follow-up for CMS Secretariat:*

- *Identify a formula to avoid running too many side events in parallel;*
- *Make opening ceremony shorter.*

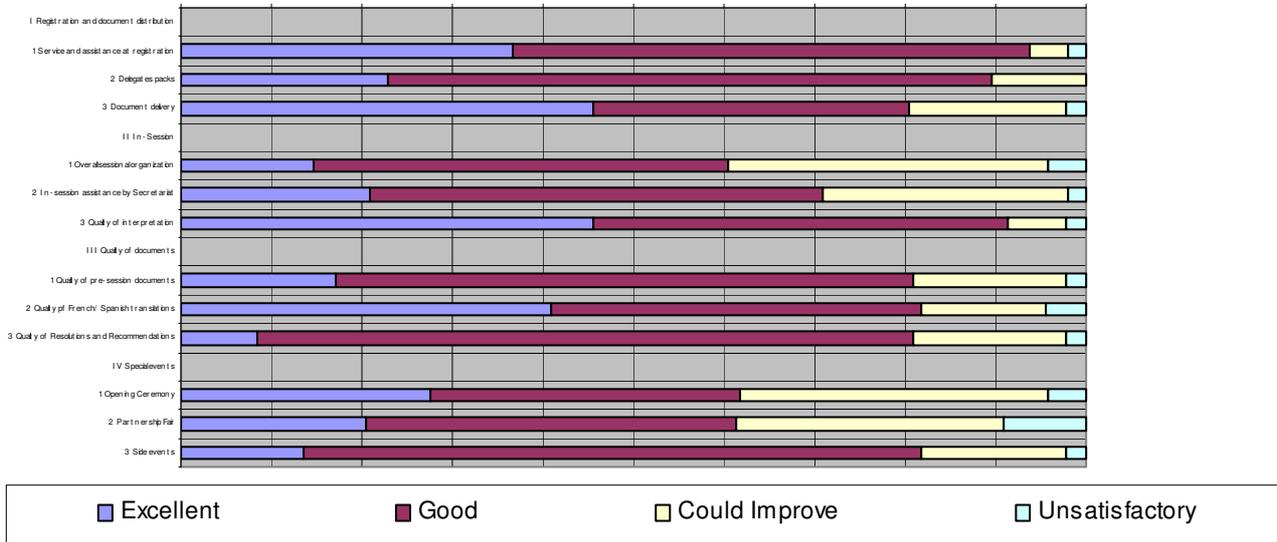
## Overall assessment

9. **The respondents to the questionnaire almost unanimously believe that the meeting made an important contribution to the conservation of species.** Amongst the positive impression and records of the meeting, participants indicated the positive atmosphere during the discussions and the events. The facilities and venue, together with the working capacity of the Secretariat and the general organization of the sessions, were also assessed as positive features of the meeting.

10. **Time management in-session and during parallel events, difficult transportation for delegates to reach the meeting venue as well as difficult internet connections were seen as the main drawbacks.**

11. While some of the problems related to the conduct of the meeting were outside the immediate control of the Secretariat (e.g. the provision of proper internet connection), most of the other features could be improved through better planning and organization of meeting sessions and document distribution.

### Outcome Of The Questionnaire CMS COP 8



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